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CANADIAN EXPERT DISCUSSES NUCLEAR COOPERATION

PY011811 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1205 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Aug (NA)--Walter Higgins, president of the Canadian Nuclear Equipment Suppliers consortium, has indicated that his week-long visit was aimed at "providing the Argentine industry with the means to take care of the country's nuclear needs almost entirely by itself."

Higgins, who concluded his 1 week of contacts in the country yesterday, said that "the visit was very positive because I made contacts with several companies (involved in atomic industry) and we will make a great contribution to Argentina's industry in the future." He added: "We believe that Canada will be able to supply some additional equipment and that in the coming years Argentina will practically attain self-sufficiency in nuclear devices." He later admitted that there are "slight differences between Canadian and Argentine manufacturing methods," but added that "our objective was for Argentina to utilize as soon as possible the same technology we use in Canada."

He indicated that "if the government accepts the consortium's proposals, the participation of Argentine firms will be twice what it had been in the Embalse nuclear plant. "I believe that Argentina would achieve self-sufficiency in the manufacture of nuclear equipment before the four plants envisaged in your program are finished," he added.

With regard to the international safeguards required for the installation of nuclear plants, to the effect that said plants will not be used for the development of nuclear weapons, Higgins said that in his opinion "Canada will not accept them as an obligatory condition for the transfer of technology to Argentina." Higgins believes that between his first visit last December and now there has been progress "regarding complementation with Argentine nuclear industry." He concluded by saying that "speaking in terms of level of nuclear technology, I could say that on a one-to-ten scale Canada would have nine points and Argentina would have three."

MARTINEZ DE HOZ: 'WAITING FOR ANSWER' ON YACYRETA

PY011718 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1229 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Aug (NA)--Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz today stated that Argentina "is waiting for an answer from the Paraguayan Government" on the Yacyreta Dam issue in order to make its final decision.

He also pointed out that the difficulties in the power supply which affect a large part of the population are caused by the "state of the whole generating system," because of its obsolescence and the maintenance problems. Martinez de Hoz was interviewed during a radio program. He stated that problems in the electricity supply during 1979-80 had been foreseen but it is hoped that the maintenance will be improved in order to overcome those problems. He added that the government's objective, having approved an energy plan up to 1985 and in the process of studying another up to 2000, is that Argentina "should have enough electricity to cope with the population growth and its overall development."

When questioned on whether the cost of living during the month of July had varied, Martinez de Hoz stated that he did not have the official report but that it would probably be issued in the course of next week.

Clarifies Remarks on Economic Policy

PY011939 Buenos Aires NOTICIA3 ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1943 GMT 27 Jul 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Jul (NA)--Argentine Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz today refuted interpretations of certain remarks he made yesterday regarding a possible reconsideration of the economic program, and indicated that "what I said is that we periodically review all we have done."

Thus, the economy minister refuted reports that he was planning to reconsider the economic program, disseminated through all news media on the basis of remarks he had made to members of the business and marketing executives' association. Martinez de Hoz supplied this explanation in a statement made to a metropolitan radio station and emphasized that he had indeed used the expression in question but merely regarding the "course of action" of the economic program. "Here we have a very common mistake, that is to take a sentence out of context and broadcast it under huge headlines," said Martinez de Hoz in a statement released by Radio El Mindo.

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES TIMERMAN CASE

PY011815 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1455 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Salta, 1 Aug (NA)--Asked about the status of Jacobo Timerman, former director of LA OPINION, Israeli Ambassador to Argentina Ram Nargard had stated here that he "has the right to live in Israel because he is a Jew."

He added: "It is not a problem between countries, but we want to emphasize Timerman's right to live in Israel." Nargard, who had come to Salta to attend the inauguration of a course on irrigation to be given by Israeli experts, added about Timerman that "right now he is in limbo because he is not under arrest nor has he been declared innocent." The Israeli ambassador stated that "he must be set free. I am not a judge, but the Argentine judges must be respected. Timerman had been tried and declared innocent by military and civilian courts, and both courts ruled that he is not a subversive."

He added: "This problem is of interest to the world. I have traveled quite a bit, including evern to places where the Argentine siuation is now known and I was asked everywhere about him." The ambassador stated that "I have discussed the subject with Argentine officials as it befits a diplomat." He added that relations between his country and Argentina "are running smoothly" and stressed that approximately half a million Jewish people live here.

EDITOR OF LA OPINION ARRESTED IN SANTA FE

PY011309 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2210 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 31 Jul (NA)--The local federal judge, Miguel Angel Quirelli, today ordered the arrest of Emilio Jose Grande, editor of the newspaper LA OPINION of Rafaela, because he found him "responsible" for the publication of an international news agency dispatch about the presence of Argentine terrorists in Nicaragua. This information was released last night by Marco Antonio Terragni, the morning newspaper's lawyer.

Director of Paper Released

PY011310 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1955 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY

[Text] Santa Fe, 31 July (TELAM)--According to court sources, the federal judge in this capital, Miguel Angel Quirelli, ordered the release of the director of the newspaper LA OPINION of Rafaela who was arrested yesterday on charges of law No 20,840 relating to national security. The judge ordered that the editor of the newspaper, Emilio Grande, remain under arrest because he is presumably responsible for the publication of the offending item.

THREE UNIONS INTERVENED, CIVILIAN INTERVENTOR REPLACED

PY011832 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1108 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 31 July (NA)--The Argentine Labor Ministry has intervented in three unions and has replaced the civilian interventor of still another union with a military officer.

The intervention applies to the Federation of Sanitary Workers (FENTOS), the Federation of Postal and Telecommunications Workers (FOECYT), and the Association of Medical Supplies Salesman. The reasons for the intervention in the latter organization were not provided in the communique issued by the Labor Ministry. No explanation was given for the appointment of Maj Angel Calcagno, Ret, as the military interventor in the Association of Metallurgical Industry Supervisors (ASIMRA), in place of the civilian Hector [name indistinct].

Col Alejo Fernandez, Ret, was appointed interventor in the Association of Medical Supplies Salesman, and Col Jose Luis Gamora, Ret, was appointed interventor in FENTOS.

ACHIEVEMENT OF WORKERS MOVEMENT UNITY ANNOUNCED

PY011820 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2208 GMT 31 Jul 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 31 July (NA)--At the end of a meeting held today the Commission of 25 and the National Labor Commission officially announced that "the unity of the Argentine workers movement has been achieved" by means of a joint 30-member leadership whose names will be disclosed on Thursday.

The two groups arrived at an agreement during a nearly 2-hour meeting held at the headquarters of the streetcar workers union. During this meeting they also approved "the basic program which will be implemented by the new leadership," according to the joint communique. Until Thursday the various sectors of the two groups will hold talks to appoint their representatives to the joint leadership which will be made up of 15 leaders of the National Labor Commission and as many of the Commission of 25.

It was revealed that today's meeting served to outline the basic points of agreement while the plan of action will be discussed by the new leadership, thus overcoming what had been, until now, an insurmountable obstacle.

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM FROM IRAQ--Buenos Aires, 28 Jul- (NA)--Well-informed sources reported that the Argentine Government has come to an agreement with the Republic of Iraq for the purchase of .5 to 1 million tons of crude petroleum. This purchase, which will be made at the international price, will almost cover the Argentine petroleum deficit. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1105 GMT 28 Jul 79 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER OPENS FIRST CONGRESS SESSION

PY012323 Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 1 Aug (AFP)--After 10 years of recess caused by military governments, the Bolivian legislative branch began its session today amid widespread disorder instigated by congressmen of the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP).

Interior Minister Raul Lopez Leyton opened the session as the representative of the government, and after the end of his speech--which drew little applause from the attending congressmen--he invited Deputy Jorge Arteaga of the Victor Paz Estenssoro alliance to take over the presidency of the Congress temporarily until the senators and deputies are divided into their separate chambers. This elicited a wave of protest from the leftist bloc. UDP senator from La Paz, Jorge Alvarez Plata, rejected the apointment, labeling it "an open intervention by the government in the business of the legislative branch." The disorder was general for a few minutes, until emotions calmed and a recess was approved.

Very much in evidence were delaying tactics by leftist deputies such as Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz of the Socialist Party (PS) and Antonio Aranibar of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), who entered the great Congress hall when Minister Lopez was concluding his speech.

Lopez pointed out that "in Latin America, the common denominator is political instability and permanent anxiety for a social and economic revolution. These factors have sometimes resulted in tragedy without generally leading to a positive solution." The interior minister wore his military uniform during the Congress inauguration ceremony.

Groups of workers blocked off some avenues in populous neighborhoods, while peasants blocked roads in various areas near La Paz during the past few hours. The inaugural session of Congress was open to the public, and hundreds of citizens took their places in spaces especially reserved for their use. After the disorder at the beginning, the congressmen settled down to the task of organizing themselves before the election of the future president.

Senate Ad Hoc Commission Formed

PY020222 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] The election of the Senate Authority Commission [Comision de Poderes] was conducted in a normal, correct and calm manner today during the first Senate session after 10 years of recess. Walter Guevara Arze, as the senior senator, was elected president of the commission. These are his remarks:

[Begin Guevara recording] Everything functioned well during the session. An ad hoc president and two ad hoc secretaries were named. The secretaries are Senator (Baptista) and Senator (Samora). The Authority Commission is composed of three persons: Senator (Valle), Senator Benjamin Miguel and [name indistinct]. [Words indistinct] Tomorrow the naming of the rest of the Senate's leaders will be considered. [end recording]

Guevara was calm and quickly and skillfully handled the minor problems that arose, as he himself explained. [recorded passage indistinct]

ELECTORAL COURT REJECTS CHARGES OF FRAUD

PY010243 La Paz Radio Panamerica Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] The National Electoral Court rejected charges that the court participated in an electoral fraud. Court officials said that, on the contrary, the court strictly complied with the law and that its decision is valid because of the impartially and correctness with which its members conducted themselves during the vote count.

The president of the electoral court, Marcelo Cespedes, said that the court, being aware of the decision of the armed forces to constitutionalize the country and their desire to return to their barracks, and respecting the will of the people, undertook the task of correctly applying the law, putting aside any other interests, and that, as a result of this historic circumstance, the court followed a method of work based on the following principles, as explained by Marcelo Cespedes. [Recorded passage indistinct]

Regarding the vote counting, the court president said that the court complied strictly with the law and that all its documents have legal bases. Regarding the La Paz District, Marcelo Cespedes said that the representatives of various political parties requested the annullment of 1,474 ballots for alleged irregularities out of a total of 2,581, thus leaving only 1,107 ballots to be counted, but that as a result of the work undertaken by the electoral court, many alleged irregularities were resolved because the law was not violated and there were no reasons for serious misgivings. He said that out of 7,320 ballots in the entire country, only 624 ballots were annulled and that these include 485 ballots in the interior of the country and only 139 ballots in La Paz Department. That is, out of a total of 1,600,000 votes, 8.5 percent were annulled an 91.5 percent were counted. The president of the electoral court said that as a result of the control measures, including the number of electors and the individual counting at each table, there is no reason to speak of fraud. [Recorded passage indistinct]

In conclusion, the president of the electoral court said that there was no electoral fraud except a few irregularities, which were resolved in some cases. In instances where they could not be resolved, ballots were annulled in accordance with the law.

Death Threat Received by Member

PY011418 La Paz Radio Panamerica Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Although it has not been officially disclosed, it was learned through reliable sources that (Alicio Valencia Vega), member of the electoral court, received an anonymous note demanding payment of 100,000 Bolivian pesos under the threat of death. The origin or reasons for this note are unknown since (Alicio Valencia Vega) is not a tycoon nor has enough money to meet the demand. Bolivian military, security forces and police forces are investigating this case in order to find the originator of the (?threat).

JUNTA VOICES CONCERN OVER ATTITUDE OF PARTIES

PY011401 La Paz Radio Panamerica Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] There is concern in the military government junta because the political parties have not made an adequate response toward putting the nation on the road to democracy, said Interior Minister Raul Lopez Leyton. He gave this statement this afternoon when he visited the president at his office in Government Palace.

Interior Minister Lopez Leyton said that the National Electoral Court has acted according to the law when making the national vote count:

[Begin recording] My opinion is that the National Electoral Court has acted according to the law. I wish to state that we have at no time interfered with its jurisdiction; we have given the National Electoral Court full freedom and independence. [end recording]

He said that in the Congress no one party will have the majority which all claim, but the members of the legislative branch which will start working as of tomorrow, 1 August, represent [words indistinct] to elect the future president of the nation. Regarding the concern expressed by the labor organizations, headed by the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], regarding the national vote count published last night the interior minister stated:

[Begin recording] I have talked with some COB representatives. In fact, I was left with a very good impression, because they showed maturity. They told me that they would only perform their specific functions, that is, those related to the labor organization, and they also told me that they would respect the law, so I do not believe that [words indistinct] and most COB leaders agree that the Constitution should be respected. [end recording]

PADILLA WARNS THAT MILITARY WILL REMAIN 'POWER FACTOR'

PY011504 Paris AFP in Spanish 1406 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 1 Aug (AFP)--President David Padilla stated here today that "the armed forces are and will continue to be a power factor," while the National Congress was initiating its activities.

Padilla addressed a message to the commander and officers of the armed forces, stressing that "in a few hours a solid democracy will be installed in Bolivia." The president condemned violent attitudes by some political leaders, regretting that such a situation had occurred, because "our people deserve a better fate." He added: "When the country has become constitutionalized, the armed forces will in fact return to their barracks and faithfully perform from there the mission given them by the Constitution in the life of the republic." He stressed: "In the future the armed forces will fulfill the mission of cooperating closely and resolutely with the constitutional government." Padilla concluded by stating that the armed forces will not remain indifferent to the situation of the nation, in order to prevent that "the democracy we are building could be destroyed by senseless people."

PRO-UDP PEASANTS SET UP ROADBLOCK NEAR LA PAZ

PY011555 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1452 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 1 Aug (LATIN)-- Police sources have reported that groups of peasants today blocked a highway leading to the subtropical Los Yungas Valley, northeast of here, to protest the National Electoral Court decision.

The court announced the victory of Hernan Siles Zuazo, candidate for the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP], by a margin only 1,512 ballots which is not enough to obtain a direct victory. Now the Congress will have to decide the election of the new president.

The protest, which is being carried out peacefully, blocked the passage of dozens of cargo and passenger vehicles at a place called La Cumbre, 26 kms from this capital, the sources added. The blockade was ordered by regional political leaders in solidarity with the leftist UDP which has made charges of a shameless fraud in the court in order to hinder its access to power after the 1 July elections. Other police reports say that political [words indistinct] staged rallies this morning in the El Alto District within the urban areas of this city, in a similar attitude of protest. There have been no reports of incidents.

Violent Incidents Reported

FY020246 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Aug 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 1 Aug (AFP)--The number of incidents involving some violence resulting from the meeting of the Congress elected on 1 July began to mount here this afternoon.

Group of demonstrators belonging to the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) and to the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) confronted each other in Garita de Lima. When the police intervened, the demonstrators tried to rip cobblestones from the streets to build barricades and to throw at the police. Once dispersed, they regrouped and attacked a small police station, which they set on fire after encountering little resistance. There are no report of casualties.

In the morning, several roads were blocked, and when Congress met this afternoon, incidents took place in the meeting hall of the Chamber of Deputies and in Murillo Park. In this park, militants of the UDP and MNR become involved in a fistfight, with the result that the police dispersed them with tear gas which entered the Congress building, forcing the congressmen to suspend their session with tears in their eyes.

LABOR CENTRAL CONSIDERING GENERAL STRIKE

FY012032 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1924 GMT 1 Aug 79 FY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 1 Aug (LATIN)--The Bolivian Labor Central (COB) met today to study the call for a general strike in response to an alleged electoral fraud--an electoral process which will culminate with the Congress appointing as president a candidate who did not get the most votes in the 1 July elections.

During an emergency session, the highest national labor organization--the Bolivian Labor Central (COB)--today studied a possible strike a few hours before the initial meeting of the National Congress. About 200 unions affiliated to the COB studied th critical political situation created by the release of the unappealable results of the general elections. The COB approved the basis of a document which will define the COB's position in view of the installation of a Congress which will have to elect the nation's president and vice president.

The highest COB leaders disagreed, however, on methods for carrying out the actions by which workers will protest an alleged fraud by the National Electoral Court. The discussion is to conclude with a resolution in which the COB will either order a 24-hour national strike or declare a state of emergency among the union. Four speakers who attended the meeting agreed, however--with the tacit support of those attending--on the need to order a general strike to protest the denial of the relative majority achieved by a political front in the popular election, said mining leader Filemon Reyes.

General Strike, Mobilization Called

PY212055 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 2035 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpt] We want to repeat a report we released a few minutes ago in view of its significance: The Bolivian Labor Central [COB], in a special national meeting held today, decided to call a 24-hour general strike as of 0000 tomorrow, Thursday, 2 August, because it believes that the popular vote has not been respected. Labor delegates gathered at the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia offices charged the electoral court with having tampered with the votes of the Bolivian people. The COB also ordered a general mobilization to defend the real results of the 1 July election.

Cochabamba Will Not Join Strike

PY010042 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Relay from Radio Cochabamba]

[Text] The Cochabamba Departmental Labor Central announced here today that it will not endorse the strike called by the Bolivian Labor Central [COB]. Consequently, no labor activities will be suspended tomorrow, Cochabamba union leader (Luis Bonani) reported. He said he will not obey the COB decision. This announcement caused a commotion here.

Educational activities will be suspended tomorrow in Cochabamba, pursuant to a decision made by leaders of the local association of teachers. Absolute calm prevails in this city, and the people have been closely following the events taking place in La Paz.

SILES SALINAS DISCUSSES ACTIVITIES IN NICARAGUA

PY011908 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Jul 79 p 9 PY

[Excerpts] The press agency FIDES has published a lengthy statement made by Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, who served as adviser to the new revolutionary government of Nicaragua for a month.

The former Bolivian president stated that he did not go to Nicaragua to fight. He said he is a man who favors peace. He fully justified Nicaragua's armed insurrection, which he said came as a consequence of the repression exerted by Somoza. In his declarations, Siles Salinas asserted having worked with the Nicaraguan reconstruction junta to whom he pledged advice and requested that no vengeance or reprisals be taken.

Regarding the political tendency of the new Nicaraguan Government, the former president indicated that no faction can claim to be representative of the whole rebellion, no matter how important its participation may have been. He stated that the present situation forces the government to take a pluralist and democratic stand and that the war which the people of Nicaragua have waged was not ideological. Siles Salinas termed the performance of the member countries of the Andean group as excellent for having been the first group to take an international stand.

Finally, he stated that in the same way his struggle in Bolivia was conducted by peaceful and legal means, he helped Nicaragua through civil actions such as encouraging the volunteers and visiting the camps. He added that this aid was the culmination of the struggle for human rights he carried out in Bolivia. He added that the Bolivian Government and people, that the brothers of the continent, have the duty to help reconstruct the country of Sandino and Ruben Dario.

COMMENTARY ON VENEZUELA'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC 'GAP'

PY020300 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jul 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Conclusions From a Trip"]

[Excerpts] We were right in saying that, although petroleum was a significant question, it was not the most important one on the agenda of Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro in Caracas. In fact, if the foreign minister of a country like Brazil decided to visit a colleague just to obtain 15,000 more barrels of oil per day beginning in 1980, he would be belittling the importance of his country, no matter how aware he might be of the difficulties and dependency that are forcing us to abandon, in practice more than in words, the slogan of "emerging power" which has been boosting our pride for some time. The results achieved in Caracas were political as we predicted--and because they were political, only time and the careful dedication of the two foreign ministries will produce tangible results.

Venezuela finds itself today in a different situation. The international economic line of division no longer runs between the North and South--and it no longer could considering the interdependence of the world economy--a fact which was proven at the recent UNCTAD conference. The world is now divided between oil-producing countries with the privilege of imposing prices on rich and poor countries alike and non oil-producing countries which must be careful to avoid internal upheavals caused by their critical balance of payments. Graciously endowed by nature, Venezuela is among those countries which are deciding the economic and political future of the world. And, even maintaining assistance programs for countries in its area of influence, it can no longer, as it used to, complain that the rich countries are responsible for the impoverishment of other nations. Venezuela cannot make that complaint because, while it boasts of selling oil at the lowest price permitted by OPEC, that country hides the real production cost of its oil--and wrests an extremely high "surplus value" (in Marxist jargon) from all countries, especially the poorest and most populated.

Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro may have therefore felt bad while signing the joint communique with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Zambrano Velasco, because it sets forth the common purpose of trying to close the wide gap separating developed from underdeveloped countries. After all, Venezuela is one of the countries responsible for this gap, and it seems ridiculous that it should state a willingness to close this gap while working together with other OPEC member countries to wreck the Western economy.

CREATION OF COFFEE OPEC SEEN AS 'IMPOSSIBLE, UNDESIRABLE'

PY011841 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1 Aug (AFP)--Otavio Rainho, president of the Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC), remarked here today that the creation of an organization similar to OPEC for coffee exporters is impossible and undesirable.

The official indicated that coffee is not only a renewable product but that it is also an article which is dispensible, unlike oil. The "organization" of the coffee exporters would be, on the other hand, an "extremely dangerous" measure which could provoke the emergence of new producing countries and also a reduction in consumption when there is an increase in its price, as happened in the United States in 1975 and 1976 after the large increase in the world prices of coffee, Rainho added. The IBC chief added that the foreseeable coffee prices will increase during the September-October period when Brazilian coffee exports are renewed. For the time being, expert sources in Sao Paulo fear that the decision adopted by Colombia to reduce its minimum export price to $2.01 per pound will cause a depressive effect on the world market.

ARAB LATIN AMERICAN BANK TO OPEN OFFICE IN RIO

PY012341 Rio de Janeiro JOURNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 31 Jul 79 p 1 PY

[Text] In announcing the opening of an office in Rio de Janeiro by December, the president of the ARLABANK (Arab Latin American Bank), Abdulwahab A. al-Tammar, said that he intends to close this year with investments of $750 million. Investments in Brazil will thus increase to $50 million by year's end.

Al- Tammar, who is also president of the Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company [name of company given in English], met yesterday with other directors and shareholders of the bank, which is composed of 27 institutions from 18 countries, the Bank of Brazil among them, to analyze results obtained in the first half of the year.

In just 2 years, the ARLABANK--founded in Lima, Peru, on 6 October 1977--has already subscribed capital of $100 million, $50 million of which is on deposit, allowing it to transact operations of up to $2 billion. As Merchant Bank [previous two words in English], it participated as an underwriter in selling Brazilian bonds abroad and in the consortiums which made loans to Acesita, Celpag, Vale do Rio Doce Company, ELETROBRAS, Fiat Diesel, Sunamam, the government of Parana state for infrastructure projects, and the Rio do Janeiro subway.

MINES, ENERGY MINISTER ANNOUNCES FUEL-SAVING MEASURE

PY020004 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jul 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals announced yesterday in Cuiaba, Mato Grosso, the closing of service stations on Saturdays [in addition to Sundays and holidays]. The measure, which was ordered by President Joao Baptista Figueiredo, will go into effect this week. The government's objective is to reduce gasoline consumption by 10 percent in order to increase diesel fuel production by the same percentage.

The minister admitted that the country "is practically rationing fuels" and revealed that President Figueiredo ordered the adoption of measures to limit consumption of imported oil to 960,000 barrels per day in accordance with a decision by the National Energy Commission. The government is to stockpile or export any surplus.

In Brasilia Transport Minister Eliseu Resende said that it will be necessary to increase the single road tax [TRU] by as much as 100 percent to collect 5.2 billion cruzeiros for the future energy fund. Planning Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen said that, despite [fuel price] increases, the government does not concede that this year's inflation rate might be as high as 50 percent as predicted by President Figueiredo. The planning minister affirmed that several measures will be adopted during the remainder of this year "to keep the inflation rate as low as possible."

PRESIDENT CONCERNED OVER WORKER'S WAGE DEMANDS

PY020314 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] Presidential Press Adviser Marco Antonio Kraemer issued the following report on today's meeting of the Economic Development Council [CDE]: [Begin Kraemer recording] President Figueiredo opened today's CDE meeting by expressing his concern over the high wage demands being made by the workers in the face of the priority assigned to the fight against inflation. He also expressed the need to guarantee the workers a more equitable participation in the nation's development. Therefore, he asked the appropriate ministers to make specific suggestions about this.

Based on a suggestion by Minister Cesar Cals, President Figueiredo authorized the Mines and Energy Ministry to guarantee gasoline supplies for taxicabs on Saturdays. [end recording]

MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS JOIN HUNGER STRIKE

PY011805 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1729 GMT 30 Jul 79 PY

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro, 30 Jul (LATIN)--Court sources have reported that eight political prisoners in the northeastern city of Recife have joined the hunger strike being carried out by 14 prisoners in this city who are protesting against the limitations contained in the amnesty law which has been drafted by the government.

Five political prisoners, including two women who are serving their sentences in Recife, have not joined the strike, although they have promised to explain the personal reasons which stopped them from doing so, the sources added.

Two secondary school students who were arrested for distributing propaganda supporting the hunger strikes were released yesterday by the Rio Grande do Sul political police.

MALUF GETS MORE SUPPORT FOR PRO-FIGUEIREDO PARTY

PY271608 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Jul 79 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo--Federal Deputy Rafael Baldacci Filho (ARENA--Sao Paulo), former interior secretary of Governor Paulo Egydio Martins' administration, and the second most voted-for candidate on ARENA's ticket during the latest elections, yesterday confirmed a political accord with Governor Paulo Maluf by making a public commitment to create a pro-President Joao Figueiredo party together with the current governor of Sao Paulo. This is the second agreement obtained by Governor Paulo Maluf in less than 3 weeks, since he has already obtained the support of Deputy Adhemar de Barros Filho (ARENA--Sao Paulo).

FIGUEIREDO FAVORS CENTRIST PARTY WITH LEFTIST WING

PY010325 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 31 Jul 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Social Communications Minister Said Farhat has affirmed that, once the party system is reorganized, President Figueiredo will give his support to a centrist party "with a rather strong leftist wing, but not from the totalitarian left which would favor a single party, or from the left which would favor the socialization of the means of production, a socialization which will not occur in Brazil."

Farhat said that the future party could be patterned after the British Labor Party, "which has a rather strong socialist wing side by side with an important rightist wing." He affirmed that the party of President Figueiredo will be "greatly concerned about the problems besieging the Brazilian people."

After meeting for 2 and 1/2 hours with the president and with Minister Golbery do Couto e Silva at the Planalto Palace, the president of the National Renewal Alliance, Senator Jose Sarney, also said that the future government party might have room in its ranks for a "constitutional leftist" faction.

Sarney believes that the bill proposing the reform of the legislation on political party organization will be submitted to Congress in September for approval before the December recess. He revealed that his consultations with ARENA members in eight states showed that the majority favor the maintenance of prerevolutionary party labels and the multiparty system.

ITALIAN PRIEST CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN TORTURED BY POLICE

PY271725 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Jul 79 p 7 PY

[Excerpt] Goiania--Italian missionary Nicola Arpone reported yesterday at the Metropolitan Curia that he had been jailed and tortured by police officers and agents of INCRA [National Land Reform and Settlement Institute] in order to make him confess his "ties with Pedro Casaldaliga, bishop of Sao Felix do Araguaia; with the lawyer of Pastoral Land Commission in Conceicao do Araguaia, Paulo Fontonelli; and with the Italian "red brigades."

Nicola Arpone is a pastoral agent [agente de pastoral] in the Tocantinopolis Bishopric and secretary of Araguaia Tocantins regional branch of the Pastoral Land Commission. He indicated that he was arrested at 1030 last Sunday in Wanderlandia District, Babaculandia County, by 10 plainclothesmen armed with revolvers and submachineguns.

"These men," he said, "arrived in a green helicopter bearing the design of a machinegun on the hood. The helicopter landed on the soccer field near Wanderlandia's parish house. The men left the helicopter and immediately came to the parish house where they arrested me. Half of them took me to helicopter while the others searched Father Atilo Berta's room. The aircraft took off soon afterwards."

The missionary added that during the trip one of his kidnapers cut off some of his hair while another one was pointing a gun at his head and ordering him to jump into the jungle. A third one, who according to the Italian priest seemed to be the chief of the group, began to interrogate him about his activities with settlers of the area, with Pedro Casaldaliga, Paulo Fontenelli and "others whom he called subversives."

Investigation of Allegations

PY280318 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Jul 79 PY

[Text] The Justice Ministry today began an investigation to determine responsibilities in the Kidnaping and 3-day detention of the missionary Nicola Arpone. The Italian missionary, who resides in Brazil with permanent residence papers granted by the government, was detained last week in Goias by 10 police agents who have not yet been identified.

BRIEFS

COFFEE SMUGGLING THROUGH PARAGUAY--Over 500,000 bags of coffee are currently being smuggled into Paraguay every year and later taken to major markets such as the United States. The smuggling appears to be conducted by an international gang which is making a clear profit of 1.3 million cruzeiros on each truckload they get across the border. National Treasury sources estimate that the yearly loss in taxes avoided in this manner amounts to 1.5 billion cruzeiros. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Jul 79 p 22 PY]

ALCOHOL CARS FOR PETROBRAS--The president of the automobile division of Fiat announced yesterday in Belo Horizonte that the first 20 alcohol-powered Fiat-147's will be delivered to PETROBRAS in Rio de Janeiro today. The assembly-line production of alcohol-powered Fiat-147's began on 2 July. In addition to a total of 64 vehicles ordered by PETROBRAS, the Fiat company has orders from the Finance Ministry and TELEMIG [Telecom de Minas Gerais]. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Jul 79 p 23 PY]

LABOR LEADERS MEET WITH PINOCHET, REPUDIATE BOYCOTT

PY011534 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpts] A review of all labor laws was agreed upon during a long meeting held yesterday between President Pinochet, members of his administration and 18 labor leaders. The meeting, which lasted from 0800 until 1045, was attended by the minister of interior and labor, the secretary general of government, the chief of the military household and the Labor Ministry under secretary. At the end of the meeting, the state adviser for labor affairs and copper workers leader Guillermo Medina indicated that at the beginning of the meeting the president had emphasized that human beings are prone to mistakes, but added that the right thing to do is to realize one's mistakes and correct whatever is wrong. The workers also requested an improvement in labor relations in industries because, according to Medina, the labor leaders must be kept aware of what is going on in the enterprises. He said that consideration must be given to their suggestions.

Guillermo Medina concluded by indicating that the government had been assured that the workers represented at the meeting do not accept the intervention of alien organizations through the boycott organized by the AFL-CIO and supported by some Chilean labor leaders. We do not accept being threatened with boycotts to solve the Chilean labor situation, he emphasized, because there is no doubt that the motive for this is not an interest in improving the labor situation but a struggle for power. The truth is that there are many who are worried about the fact that the government is about to celebrate its 6th anniversary and they do not give a damn about the workers. He reaffirmed that the labor leaders repudiate those who are sponsoring boycott.

Bernardino Castillo, president of the National Copper Workers Confederation, believes that the meeting was very positive and yielded good results. (Manuel Contreras Loyola), president of the metallurgical workers confederation, indicated that he conveyed to the president his opinion of the positive and negative aspects of the labor plan. With regard to the threat of boycott against our country, the position of Contreras and his sector is clear-cut:

[Begin Contreras recording] We do not agree with foreign pressures and boycotts against Chile. My confederation made this very clear to the president and proposed an emergency plan to be implemented in case the boycott takes place. [end recording]

CARABINEROS CHARGED WITH LONQUEN MURDER RELEASED ON BAIL

PY011802 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0247 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 31 Jul (LATIN)--The military court today confirmed the bail granted by a military judge to eight carabineros tried for alleged participation in the murder of 15 leftist peasants which took place in the Lonquen lime mine 6 years ago, according to sources of this court. The defense had asked Judge Gonzalo Salazar to grant bail and after stating his favorable opinion the latter submitted the plea to the military court for the final ruling. Initially the judge had set bail at 3,000 pesos (approximately $76) to allow the policemen to recover their freedom because for the past month they had been under arrest at their units. The ruling applied to Capt Lautaro Castro and carabineros Juan Villegas, Felix Sagredo, Manuel Munoz, Jacinto Torres, David Coliqueo, Jose Luis Belmar and Justo Romo.

GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE 30-MONTH ECONOMIC PROGRAM

PA020400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0112 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[By Jorge Calmet]

[Text] Caracas, 1 Aug (AFP)--Today, Peruvian Economy Minister Javier Silva Ruete told AFP that his government will continue with its 30-month economic program, in order to reactivate the nation's economy by the time the military government turns power over to a civilian through the elections scheduled for 18 May 1980.

The Social Christian minister stated that this financial program, in effect from June 1978 through December 1980, has reached some important goals, such as financing the huge Peruvian foreign debt, stabilizing its balance of payments, as well as the speedy recovery of the capital reserves and the spectacular growth of Peruvian exports. Silva Ruete thus disregarded the latest wave of strikes in Peru that have been unleashed in reaction to the government's financial program, stating that the last three strikes called by the labor organizations "failed." Stating that these strikes have "a political nature," the minister said that the Peruvian people have not responded to the strikes because "they know and understand the economic difficulties of the country and are making an effort to get ahead."

He pointed out that in 13 months, the Peruvian financial program has reduced the fiscal deficit of the gross national produce from 9 percent to less than 2 percent. The nation's current inflationary index stands at 60 percent, with a tendency to decrease in the last months of the year. He said that in the first 6 months of the year, Peru's gross national product grew by 3.4 percent in contrast to 4 years of constant decline.

The Peruvian economy minister, attending the fifth ordinary meeting of the Latin American Economic System (LAES), said that his financial program contemplates the encouragement of public and private investment in the country. Thus, he said, the Peruvian Government seeks to solve one of its most critical problems, namely unemployment, which, he said, affects 6 percent of the economically active population.

Silva Ruete noted that underemployment in his country reaches 30 or 35 percent, which he describes as negative because it seriously affects unemployment. "The economic plan, despite some reserves, is yielding positive results at all levels, and we are going to carry it out firmly, especially so that the transfer (of power to the civilians) can be carried out on solid bases," he concluded.

HAYA DE LA TORRE'S HEALTH REMAINS STABLE

PY011505 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] The illness which is affecting Raul Haya de la Torre, former president of the constituent assembly,remains (?unchanged).

But, according to [words indistinct] there is a tendency toward improvement. Everything is being done in order to obtain an improvement, it added. He was visited yesterday by U.S. Ambassador Harry W. Shlaudeman, who was accompanied by the (?labor) attache, (John Taylor). (Carlos Roca Caceres) stressed that Haya de la Torre's health has experienced very critical moments and he hopes that there will be an improvement within the next few days.

COSTA RICA

WEAPONS BORROWED FROM PANAMA RETURNED AT AIRPORT CEREMONY

PA020118 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Today, Costa Rica returned the weapons lent by Panama to defend its sovereignty while Gen Anastasio Somoza's aggressive regime remained in Nicaragua. During a solemn ceremony at Costa Rica's Juan Santamaria Airport, Public Security Minister Juan Echeverria thanked the Panamanian ambassador for Panama's consistent support for Costa Ricans, especially at a time when the lives of thousands were endangered.

Here are Minister Echeverria's statements: [begin recording] During this solemn, symbolic ceremony, we would like to express our thanks through you, Mr Ambassador, on behalf of the president, government and people of Costa Rica for the solidarity and aid which, during difficult times for our country's security, were provided by the government and fraternal people of Panama. Today, as we return most of that enormous aid received from Panama, on behalf of the public force, the president--at his own request--and myself, I want to say that with the selfless, spontaneous and timely aid of the Panamanian people and government, we Costa Ricans were able to insure our integrity, security and tranquillity in our homes at a very difficult time. Mr Ambassador, may you receive my gratitude and convey it to your government. [end recording]

BRIEFS

CRACKED RICE ALCOHOL--Costa Rica will use its production of cracked rice, which amounts to some 30,000 metric tons a year, to produce alcohol to be used for energy purposes. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Jul 79 PA]

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND--Mario Enrique de la Cruz Torres recently presented his credentials as Guatemalan ambassador to Switzerland. He is also Guatemalan ambassador to France. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 23 Jul p 1 PA]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT WARNS TEACHERS ABOUT DISTURBANCES

PA011202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0327 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Jul (AFP)--The Honduran Government today warned teachers "to remain calm and avoid street disturbances in their demands for wages higher than those already approved last weeks by the Public Education Ministry."

Minister Eugenio Matute Canizales told AFP that "if, despite the great sacrifices the government is making to satisfy their demands, the teachers allow the movement to become violent, the government will have to adopt serious measures to avoid any actions of anarchy in the country.

The official considered the teachers' request for higher wages to be just, "because I have always maintained that Honduran teachers are underpaid, but a greater increase than the one already established would require higher taxes, which would be rejected by the people."

NICARAGUA

JUNTA OFFICIALS DISCUSS U.S. AID, OTHER AFFAIRS

PA020406 Paris AFP in Spanish 2314 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (AFP)--"In principle," the United States has agreed to provide military aid to Nicaragua, reconstruction junta member Daniel Ortega confirmed during a news conference here today.

Humberto Ortega, Daniel's brother and one of the three commanders in chief of the Sandinist army, also participated in the news conference. No specific request for weapons has been studied yet and the United States is just providing food now, Humberto Ortega added.

Concerning alleged Palestinian aid for the Sandinist revolution, Humberto Ortega said "experiences have been exchanged with the Arab countries." We always supported the Arab countries' struggle against Israel because Anastasio Somoza Garcia (the deposed dictator's father) helped arm Zionists in the 1940's and 1950's, he added.

The junta member said that the army has adopted adequate measures within the country and along the Honduran border to try to avoid possible attacks by former national guardsmen.

"We have advanced in the struggle against the snipers who operate at night in Managua, but the problem has not been completely solved," Daniel Ortega admitted. To him, it is a matter of "paramilitary elements who hid when the Sandinist troops entered the capital."

ORTEGA REMARKS ON SOMOZIST 'HAVENS' IN HONDURAS, JUNTA'S UNITY

PA020428 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0058 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the ruling junta and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) directorate, told ACAN-EFE today that Honduras has replied positively and that talks are underway with El Salvador so that those countries will not become havens for Somozist forces.

He said information has been received concerning the regrouping of Somozist military detachments that fled to Honduras after the FSLN overthrew Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle's administration.

In a previous official pronouncement, Honduras had said that it would not become a haven for an attack on Nicaragua's revolutionary government.

Commander Ortega said that the Nicaraguan Government's future ideology will be decided by the people, based on their own history and not on the experience of other countries.

In reply to newsmen's questions at the Camino Real Hotel in Managua this afternoon he said that there is no division within the FSLN.

DUTCH PAPER INTERVIEWS BORGE, CITES HASSAN ON MILITARY POLICY

LD011115 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 30 Jul 79 p 2 LD

[Jan van der Putten dispatch: "Fear of Countermove by Somoza"]

[Excerpt] Managua--Domestic Affairs Minister Tomas Borge was at Managua airport Saturday to welcome the returning U.S. Ambassador Pezzullo. "We intend to ask the U.S. Government for weapons to enable the Sandinist army to defend us against Somoza's terrorists," he said. I spoke with him after the press conference.

According to Borge, Nicaragua might ask the United States for military advisers among other things. "I spoke with the U.S. ambassador today, " he said, "and told him that our country welcomes him with open arms provided our dignity and sovereignty are respected. That is the only precondition we impose. As long as they respect us they will be respected."

[Question] What about the likelihood of economic destabilization as in Chile?

Tomas Borge: If they try to use economic blackmail against us we are prepared to die of hunger rather than to allow anyone to blackmail us. [Borge ends]

One of the most pressing tasks at the moment is the organization of the Sandinist regular army which will be used exclusively for defense purposes. According to government junta member Moises Hassan the Sandinist army now has around 5,000 men. This new people's army is commanded by three members of the united national leadership of the Sandinist front, Tomas Borge, Luis Carrion and Humberto Ortega. This supreme command has just appointed a general staff. At the same time the people's militia is being reorganized since there will probably be no need for it after the army has been formed. The Sandinist leadership--which holds power in practice and is still seeking a delimitation of power between itself and the government junta--emphatically denied that international brigades are being trained in Nicaragua to fight in Guatemala and El Salvador. "We do not intend to seek conflicts elsewhere," a Sandinist commander said. "We had to wage war to end war and what we want now is to rebuild the country." He also denied that Sandinist fighters had been trained in Cuba.

SANDINISTS, SNIPERS ENGAGE IN SHOOTOUT IN MANAGUA

PA011924 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1823 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[By Agustin Puentes]

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (LATIN)--Members of the Sandinist army and snipers today engaged in a violent shootout in northern Managua at the same time as government armored forces were engaged in maneuvers. Eyewitnesses said that the snipers apparently began their attack from inside the cathedral in this area and that the shooting was so intense that thousands of employees of the National Palace, across the street from the cathedral, were asked to stay home.

They said that Sandinist soldiers had taken up positions at the Plaza de la Revolucion, which is located between the two buildings, in Central Park and in neighboring buildings. Shortly afterward, official spokesmen reported that one Sandinist had been wounded and that bloodstains had been found in one of the cathedral's towers.

There were loud sounds of gunfire in the sector during the clash. The radio network headed by Radio Sandino warned Sandinist forces not to mobilize. It told the public that there was no cause for alarm since it was normal maneuvering by armored forces of the new Sandinist army.

Prolonged shooting also frightened residents of the southeastern sector of Managua, where residents reported that apparently there was a solitary sniper whose reasons for firing were unknown. One resident said that "He makes his appearance in the Pancatan residential district at precisely 0300." Firing, said some of the residents, sometimes occurs at 4 or 5-minute intervals, always in different directions, which disorientates the Sandinist patrols that have attempted to catch him for several nights. Up to now, nobody has been wounded in this sector, but residents are concerned and dismayed.

"This solitary sniper could be a crazed person who has seized an automatic weapon or some fanatical politician. If he were a guardsman, he would already have had time to leave Managua," said on of the residents.

"Solitary snipers" have also been reported in other parts of Managua.

Today's shooting was the most intensive to be reported since victorious FSLN columns penetrated overthrown President Anastasio Somoza Debayle's "Bunker" 2 weeks ago. There were reports then of several confrontations between Sandinists and national guardsmen fleeing the city.

The top leaders of the FSLN went to northern Nicaragua yesterday in the wake of official reports about a slaughter perpetrated by remnants of Somoza's National Guard. An official Sandinist communique said that a column of 25 former guardsmen had been "totally annihilated" after committing a "mass crime" in the northern Department of Chinandega.

Meanwhile, the new Cuban ambassador, Julian Gonzalez, presented his letters of credence today a few days after the provisional government junta and the government of President Fidel Castro established diplomatic relations.

An Algerian diplomat who resides in Cuba, but whose name was not released, is visiting Managua along with Gonzalez.

The junta of the Government of National Reconstruction was also receiving today a delegation of the Institutional Revolutionary Party of Mexico. It is composed of eight persons headed by Gustavo Carvajal, leader of this ruling party.

SANDINISTS CONCERNED OVER SECURITY SITUATION

PA011935 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1611 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Commander Hugo Torres, the new Nicaraguan regime's state security chief, has said that his main worry is the northern border because of possible sabotage and attacks from former Somozist guardsmen who escaped to El Salvador and Honduras. He does not believe that the United States would openly participate with troops in aggression against Nicaragua.

In an exclusive interview granted to ACAN-EFE, Torres unofficially said that Nicaragua's main security problem is posed by Somozist guardsmen who crossed the northern border as a unit, with all their arms and led by their officers. Although not too explicit, Torres said that there were reports that Col Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, the son of overthrown President Anastasio Somoza, and other officers are reorganizing these troops.

Torres, who was appointed state security chief just a few weeks ago, told ACAN-EFE that for this difficult task he has only an intelligence service in an embryonic stage established by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) during the war. He said that he still has problems with paramilitary troops and sniper groups harassing the Sandinists. There are skirmishes every night in Managua.

Government Minister Tomas Borge and Government Vice Minister Eden Pastora were in Matagalpa, in the northern zone of the country, yesterday. Regarding international reports about the reorganization of Somozist troops in Honduras, the Honduran Government said that it will not permit that the country be turned into a sanctuary to launch attacks against the new Nicaraguan authorities.

Meanwhile, Radio Sandino, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) official spokesman, today told public employees in the National Palace not to go to work until further notice. Radio Sandino said that Sandinist militia guarding the National Palace were attacked by snipers atop the ruins of the cathedral. The radio also reported that the snipers had been surrounded by Sandinist squads.

Regarding the normalization process in Nicaragua, Defense Minister Col Bernardino Larios told ACAN-EFE that it is not going to be achieved quickly. He said the country is solving complex and difficult problems. He also said that the Sandinist forces are in the process of becoming a regular army.

In connection with the arrival of Panamanian National Guard experts who are providing technical advice to the Sandinist government, Colonel Larios only said: "Between Panama and Nicaragua there are good, friendly ties." The Panamanian military delegation arrived on Monday in Managua where it will stay the time necessary to give technical advice to the new government on matters related to police and prison organization.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF SPANISH SOCIALIST FELIPE GONZALES

Country as 'Example' for Neighbors

PA011926 Paris AFP in French 1121 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (AFP)--Felipe Gonzalez, former secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, said on Tuesday in Managua that the example of the new Nicaraguan Government may permit a peaceful transition toward democratic governments to be achieved in neighboring countries, that is, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. "Nicaragua may and should be an example, a symbol, which its leaders have no right to destroy," Gonzalez told AFP.

He added that an identity of views developed among former Venezuelan social democratic President Carlos Andres Perez, Panamanian strongman Omar Torrijos and Fidel Castro to help that country but not to impose anything on it.

"Nicaraguans have drawn great moral strength from their victory and will not allow anything to be imposed on them from abroad. They will not allow any strings to be attached to financial aid. Their generosity toward former national guardsmen and collaborators of the former government is inconceivable. Their revolution is truly unique," Gonzalez said in conclusion.

Gonzalez arrived in Managua on Monday to meet with Nicaraguan leaders. He is scheduled to travel to Panama on Wednesday.

Request of Aid From Spain

PA011927 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1533 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish socialist leader, has asked for immediate aid for Nicaragua from Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez. Gonzalez, who has been visiting Nicaragua since Monday, told ACAN-EFE that he had personally called Suarez to insist on this aid since Nicaragua has the problem of feeding the 1 million victims of the civil war.

He added that he would like spain to declare its solidarity with the Sandinist government by extending at least the same amount of aid given to the former regime of Gen Anastasio Somoza. He said that Spain can grant credits on advantageous terms for the reconstruction of the country. The Western world, and Spain in particular, have a great debt to Nicaragua, said Felipe Gonzalez.

In his statement for ACAN-EFE he added that he had never seen a situation similar to that of Nicaragua: "The country is not only in ruins and its state apparatus destroyed, but in his withdrawal Somoza implemented a scorched-earth policy to destroy the country's economic infrastructure."

"The junta of the new government, which respects the people, is leading a country razed by inexplicable cruelty, a country without any means to subsist," added the former secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE]. "There is nothing else to do but unconditionally support the Nicaraguan people because they are not going to negotiate on their hunger. It is not possible for countries which sent aid to the Somoza regime to find scruples now," said Gonzalez. "This is much worse than the 1972 earthquake," he said, "because the quake killed at random whereas Somoza tried to exterminate the youth."

Gonzalez came to Nicaragua accompanied by Spanish socialist Deputy Miguel Angel Martinez. They arrived from Panama in one of Gen Omar Torrijos' planes, in which they will return to Panama today. While here, they met with members of the government junta, cabinet ministers, Sandinist front commanders and Spanish residents to study what immediate aid could be offered to Nicaragua.

According to junta members Sergio Ramirez and Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, Nicaraguan circles approved of Gonzalez' visit.

The Spanish socialist leader told ACAN-EFE that, the same way that the struggle against Somoza has been a symbol of the struggle in all Latin America, the reconstruction and political process in this country will determine the future of the continent, where progress toward democracy is also being made in countries like Ecuador and Bolivia. He added that he hopes Nicaragua will soon overcome its difficulties in a climate of freedom, Gonzalez said.

Concerning Spanish Government policy in regard to the conflict in Nicaragua, the young opposition leader said that errors have been committed because many officials do not understand Latin America's reality. In Gonzalez' opinion, the policy followed by the Spanish Government in regard to Latin America is too similar to that of the United States. He said that his party has criticized this foreign policy line. Moreover, he told ACAN-EFE, he does not believe the government is responsible for the sales of Spanish arms to Somoza during the last few months. "I think the government was unable to control those illegal sales," he said.

During his stay in Nicaragua Gonzalez has visited cities such as Masaya, 30 km from this capital, which was the scene of heavy fighting during the war.

COMMUNIST LEADER SUPPORTS COMMUNIST LABOR CENTRAL

PA012031 Paris AFP in Spanish 1714 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Text] Managua, 1 Aug (AFP)--A communist labor leader today asked for the nationalization of all factories that do not open their doors immediately. He also voiced support for the creation of a Sandinist labor central. Sebastian Castro, executive secretary of the communist General Confederation of Independent Workers [Confederacion General del Trabajo Independiente--CGTI], told AFP that a management plot is afoot to boycott production. Castro, leader of the nation's most important labor union, explained that "only now can labor movements emerge in the light of day. The time has come to give life to a powerful single central."

The daily BARRICADA, official organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], announced this week the intention to promote a Sandinist labor central. Castro stressed that this initiative "is in line with the interests of the labor movement."

In Managua, where it is estimated that some 160,000 salaried workers lived before the civil war, the number of members of unions affiliated with the CGTI totals some 10,000. Other unions not affiliated with the communist central have several thousand members, especially in the construction and public health sectors. There is also a Committee for Labor Unity [Comite de Unificacion Sindical--CUS]--which hardly supports that--following the orientation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

The CGTI emerged in the 1960's when a group of leaders refused to back the Anastasio Somoza government's political absorbing of the General Labor Confederation (CGT).

In his statement to AFP, Castro stressed that workers who are members of CGTI participated actively in the rebellion and that now they are waiting to resume work to contribute to the nation's reconstruction. However, he explained, "many businessmen are blocking the reopening of factories, and many of them have not yet returned from abroad, where they fled during the war." The new Nicaraguan Government must ask these businessmen to reopen their factories. If they refuse or remain silent, it must nationalize the companies. According to Castro, the creation of a Sandinist single central would allow, according to estimates, the grouping of not less than 200,000 affiliated workers. The future central would group together the largest possible number of unions in each specialty under the leadership of a central council, he added.

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID--Managua, 28 Jul (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Red Cross President Ismael Reyes has reported that during the past 15 days the planes chartered by the Red Cross of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Panama have brought more than 2.5 million lbs of food to Managua. Shipments have also been sent by the United States through AID, the FRG, CARE, the Catholic Relief Service, the International Red Cross and the Peruvian and Argentine governments. This aid is being distributed to more than 150,000 persons through the Nicaraguan Red Cross. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2016 GMT 28 Jul 79 PA]

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO PRAISES CUBAN ASSISTANCE

FL012014 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] In Luanda, Angolan President Agostinho Neto has praised Cuban internationalist assistance for the development of Angolan technicians and specialists. He also announced that 1,200 Pioneers will come to study in our country this year. The Angolan chief of state met with a group of outstanding students who are studying in Cuba and now are on vacation in Angola. Neto stated that the merits gained by Angolan students and teachers are not just theirs but of Cuba in its solidary assistance in training technicians. A female student gave Neto a gift made by the students and, on behalf of all who are studying in Cuba, she reaffirmed their pledge to continue being faithful to the guidelines of the MPLA-Labor Party.

Culture Minister Arrives in Luanda

FL012028 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2006 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo and of the Council of State, has arrived in Luanda, Angola, at the head of a Cuban delegation which will visit several African countries. The delegation was received by MPLA-Labor Party Politburo member Antonio dos Santos Franca, Central Committee member Antonio Jacinto and Cuban Ambassador to Angola Jaime Crombet. An official spokesman said Hart's visit to several African countries is part of preparations being made for the nonalined countries sixth summit conference to be held in Havana in September.

FAPLA Fifth Anniversary Commemorated

FL020131 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Aug 79 FL

[Text] The fifth anniversary of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] was celebrated this afternoon at a ceremony which was presided over by Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and first vice minister-chief of the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR; Comrade Luis Neto, charge d'affaires of the People's Republic of Angola to Cuba, FAR vice ministers and officers and officials from that fraternal African country. In the name of the Angolan students in Cuba (Amauro Mathias) sent a congratulatory message to the Cuban comrades who have lent such valuable aid to the Angolan revolutionary movement, and Col (Jesus Vermudez Cutino), directorate chief of the FAR Ministry, pointed out the importance of the FAPLA in the Angolan revolutionary process. In his closing remarks Comrade Luis Neto pointed out the importance of this fifth anniversary of the FAPLA stressing the role which they have played as the armed and secure arms of the Angolan people.

[Begin Neto recording] On this fifth FAPLA anniversary we would like to recall once again the fact of the holding of the sixth summit of the nonalined countries here in the city of Havana. The government of my country will be present through the highest exponents of the MPLA-Labor Party directorate and will contribute to seeing that the summit is a success. I do not want to end these remarks without mentioning the zealousness, dedication and spirit of sacrifice which has been shown by the teachers who are here from the Angolan military cadres. With the knowledge that they acquired here and in other socialist countries, the Angolan revolution undoubtedly has in them its most legitimate defenders, who by following the directions of the MPLA-Labor Party and led by Comrade President Agostinho Neto, are ready for everything. [end recording]

GARCIA FRIAS DISCUSSES NONALINED SUMMIT, LEAVES LIBYA

FL011519 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Guillermo Garcia Frias, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has concluded his visit to Libya, a Tripoli datelined PRENSA LATINA dispatch reports. During his stay in that country, Garcia Frias examined with Libyan officials preparations for the nonalined countries sixth summit conference that will be held in Havana in September.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH PORTUGUESE DELEGATION

FL012019 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2003 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today received a Portuguese delegation headed by Maj Vasco Correia, member of Portugal's Council of the Revolution. Majors (Aniseto Enrique Alfonso) and (Manuel Antunes Borges) and Portuguese Ambassador to Cuba Manuel Joao da Palma (Calvo) participated in the meeting. Carlos Martinez Salsamendi, advisor to the vice president of the Council of Minister, and Juan Cesar Diaz, official of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, participated in the meeting for the Cuban side. Matters concerning relations between Cuba and Portugal, other topics of mutual interest and problems derived from the current international situation were discussed at the cordial meeting.

MEETING TO EXAMINE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA

FL011426 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Public Health Minister Dr Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz at this moment is meeting with provincial directors [of health] and local government executive committee members responsible for public health activities. The meeting is in connection with the medical assistance that will be given to Nicaragua. According to reports from our reporter Benjamin Castillo, future medical assistance that will be offered to the fraternal Nicaraguan people without affecting the Cuban population is being examined and planned at the meeting.

Rodriguez Llompart Reaffirms Position

FL011741 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Hector Rodriguez Llompart, president of the Cuban State Committee for Cooperation, has reaffirmed in Caracas our country's unrestricted support for the reconstruction of Nicaragua. Rodriguez Llompart, who heads the Cuban delegation to the fifth regular meeting of the Latin American Economic System (LAES) Council, said his government's position was clearly established on 26 July when Commander in Chief Fidel Castro urged all countries, without exception on any type, to give solidary support to Nicaragua. The first working day of the fifth LAES meeting being held in Caracas was characterized by the total support of the 26 member countries for the creation of an action support committee for the reconstruction of Nicaragua. LAES also agreed to form a special working group to draft a number of recommendations concerned with LAES support for the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

GARCIA CAPOTE SCORES CHINESE NUCLEAR POLICY

FL012118 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2041 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Today at the world congress against atomic and hydrogen bombs meeting in Japan, Cuba condemned the Chinese leadership for encouraging the production of nuclear weapons of mass destruction and for opposing the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Cuban delegate from the committee for abolishing nuclear weapons which is meeting in Japan recalled that the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first steps in the world arms race. Julio Garcia Capote said that in this age of weapons of massive destuction, humanity, both the developed as well as underdeveloped nations, needs peace. The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples representatives expressed support for holding a world conference on disarmament with the participation of all nations.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL012133 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2104 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Isam Khidhar, Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] representative in Cuba, held a news conference at noon today and condemned the new escalation of imperialism and Zionism against the cause of the Palestinian people. Khidhar pointed out that the increased offensive of the Israeli state is not a coincidence but the result of the Camp David agreements and imperialism's knowledge that the Palestinian people's struggle for their independence is the greatest obstacle to As-Sadat's selling out policy. The PLO representative in Cuba then explained the latest acts of aggression undertaken by Israel against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Among these, he noted the air attacks against the communities of Ad Damur and Na'mah and the towns south of Sidon.

At the news conference, PLO representative in Cuba Isam Khidhar also charged the existence of a Zionist plan to convert Lebanon into a burned out land for the purpose of crushing the Palestine revolution. Khidhar said that another objective of the plan is to attempt to expel the 700,000 Palestinian refugees. In the meantime Zionist aviation, using North American equipment, continues to bomb areas near Beirut as was done in the attack on 29 July 1979. The PLO representative also reported that 13 villages were bombed for over two hours over the last few days. Isam Khidhar said that despite all aggressions the Palestinian people will defend their rights which have been encouraged by the solidarity of the peoples, among them the socialist community headed by the USSR.

LABOR MOVEMENT MARKS ROMANIAN INSURRECTION ANNIVERSARY

FL311434 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 31 Jul 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban labor movement has paid tribute to the 35th anniversary of the national antifascist insurrection of the Romanian people in which the Romanian Communist Party played a decisive role. The ceremony, held on the first floor of the Justice Ministry building, opened with the national anthems of Cuba and Romania. Mario Machin, secretary general of the National Public Administrations Workers Union, then discussed the armed struggle initiated in Romania in 1944. Romanian Ambassador to Cuba Nicolae Moraru made the closing remarks.

RULES SET FOR INCREASED EDUCATION OF FAR PERSONNEL

FL011809 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Active military service is a duty and obligation of the new generations formed by our revolution. Taking this principle as the basis, thousands of youths are being called every year to the ranks of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and they perform their sacred defense duty with honor. In accordance with latest rules that have been established in keeping with the need to have comrades with adequate educational levels in the FAR, it has been decided that FAR youths who maintain a positive attitude, good discipline and favorable results in combat and political training with a minimum grade of 4 points can be admitted to the university.

Recruitment of the first pre-university graduates will begin this year in numbers that will be increased gradually every year. Youths who have the right to register directly at the university because of their academic record will not be included in this recruitment. According to these guidelines, active military service youths who obtain favorable results over 2 consecutive years will have the right, granted by the FAR, to register at the university once they are released upon completion of the 3-year active military service. Graduates who are positively outstanding over the first 2 years of active military service and maintain good conduct and discipline over that period will have the right to have their military service period reduced to only 2 years and be admitted to the university. The young graduates who, besides having an outstanding attitude, are requested by the FAR and are willing to remain in the FAR to complete a new period of active military service, will have the right to be admitted at the university for whatever field of study they select. In the future, this procedure will result in a university registration composed of many youths released from the FAR who have earned the right to go to the university. In the same manner, from 1983 to 1985 most pre-university graduates will have completed active military service before going to the university.

Each year, our FAR have more modern and complex weapons and equipment forced by the latent threat of aggression and constant modernization of the enemy's weapons. Under this premise, the FAR have undertaken the task of raising combat and political training and improving the mastery of the modern combat equipment that is received. The use of modern military equipment requires a greater educational level of those in active military service and this will facilitate learning the use of new equipment which the party and far place in the hands of the armed people for defense against acts of aggression of the enemy.

VECINO ALEGRET REPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION GROWTH

FL011434 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] Fernando Vecino Alegret, minister of higher education and member of the PCC Central Committee, has announced that a total of 146,293 students were registered in higher education for the school year which has just ended. He also announced that the number of graduates was 14,630 or similar to the total higher education registration 20 years ago. At a meeting to examine the 1978-79 school year, Vecino Alegret said this school year has been an important step in the required efforts to completely fulfill resolutions of the first party congress.

JAMAICAN, GRENADIAN ARMED FORCES PLACED ON STATE OF ALERT

PA0121145 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1724 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[By Jesus Garcia Canoura]

[Text] Havana, 1 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The armed forces of Jamaica and Grenada have been placed on a state of alert as a result of the increased political tension, invasion threats and clandestine military activities in the region, it was learned here today. The extreme security measures, taken almost simultaneously in Kingston and St Georges, the respective capitals of Jamaica and Grenada, add another feature to the unstable situation in the Caribbean following the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) foreign ministers' failure to reach an understanding on a number of controversial issues discussed a few weeks ago. The CARICOM foreign ministers met on 25 and 26 July in Barbados, but were unable to reach an agreement after long debates regarding the metropolitan presence in the region denounced by Jamaica. Neither could they reach an agreement regarding the plan for a regional security force, suggested by some countries in the area and the United States because of the revolutionary situation in the eastern Caribbean, especially the coup d'etat which overthrew former Grenadian Prime Minister Eric Gairy on 13 March 1979. The CARICOM foreign ministers failed to reach any specific resolutions regarding the increased threat of terrorism and mercenary activity in the Antilles, which, together with the growing illegal arms traffic, have unleashed a wave of unrest among many area governments. Gairy, who left for the United States after quickly abandoning office, said that he would organize a force to regain power.

The presence of unidentified helicopters and submarines in Grenada's airspace and territorial waters, the arrest of foreign agents in the capital and the existence of espionage directed against the country's defense establishments, all of which have been denounced by Maurice Bishop's new regime, seem to indicate that the threats of the deposed leader are true. To all this must be added the concern felt among governments such as Antigua because of the eastern Caribbean tripartite agreement, covering political, economic and social cooperation among Grenada, Dominica and St Lucia. The seizure of power in Nicaragua, also a Caribbean country, by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), has increased concern over the region, particularly by the United States, which has already sent a special envoy to evaluate the Caribbean situation. Meanwhile, Jamaica insists on eliminating all metropolitan influence in the Caribbean, increasing its relations with socialist countries and opening CARICOM to all countries in the region, regardless of whether or not they speak English, which would allow Cuba and Nicaragua to join the bloc. Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley must face growing unrest among social forces in the island, encouraged by the Jamaican opposition Labor Party, which seems to be determined to prevent the prime minister from completing his term of office.

BAHAMAS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH VATICAN

FL011440 Nassau TRIBUNE in English 28 Jul 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] The Vatican announced today that it has established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with the Bahamas. A release from the Bahamas Ministry of External Affairs said the Bahamas and "the Holy See being desirous of strengthening their bonds of friendship, have decided of common accord to establish with one another diplomatic relations at the level of embassy and apostolic nunciature with effect from July 27, 1979."

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

IAES SUPPORTS RECONSTRUCTION OF NICARAGUA

FL011027 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Aug 79 FL

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Latin American Economic System [IAES] has concluded its first day of working sessions announcing total support for the reconstruction of Nicaragua. There were no debates on the aid needed by Nicaragua, merely speeches by the delegates urging that every effort be made in aiding that Central American country. In that respect, Cuba's Economic Cooperation Minister Hector Rodriguez Llompart, chief of the Cuban delegation to the meeting, reiterated the unrestricted support of the Cuban people and government for the Nicaraguan nation. My government's position was clearly defined last 26 July when our president, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, exhorted all countries, all types and without conditions, to give solidary aid to Nicaragua, Rodriguez Llompart stressed. Cuba, together with Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua, participated in a working session to prepare a list of ways in which Nicaragua can be helped in its reconstruction.

COLOMBIA

TEACHERS CALL NATIONAL STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

PA020304 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Aug 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Aug (EFE)--Today, some 180,000 primary and secondary school teachers halted their activities in Colombia in the most serious strike in the history of education in this country, sources close to the sector revealed today.

This afternoon, the Colombian Teachers Federation, the most powerful teachers union in the country, reported that the strike primarily affected the nation's five most important cities, where over two million students were unable to attend classes. The strike, according to leader Abel Rodriguez Cespedes, was called to pressure the government into increasing the salaries of 180,000 teachers throughout the nation and to satisfy future labor demands which contemplate salaries hikes of up to 40 percent.

In Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, and Medellin, antiriot squads went into the streets to prevent disturbances during the strike.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

POLICE, STRIKES CLASH OVER INCREASED FUEL PRICES

PA012317 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2156 GMT 1 Aug 79 PA

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 1 Aug (EFE)--Three people killed, 1 injured and nearly 200 arrests is the preliminary balance left today in Santo Domingo by the incidents triggered by a 48-hour strike which erupted this morning to protest the increased fuel prices.

A 9-year-old child and two youths were killed during the clashes between the police, armed civilians trying to control the strikers and groups of demonstrators. The boy, Andres Espinal, was killed when bullets fired by armed civilians, some of whom are followers of the official Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), penetrated his lungs. The armed civilians marched through the streets of the Dominican capital to dissuade groups of youths from supporting the strike.

Young Fermin Hernandez was shot twice in the head in a confusing incident between police and demonstrators in which both sides apparently exchanged shots. The third victim, Alejandro Acosta, 22, was hit by a rifle bullet fired by a military patrol that was trying to repel a barrage of stones that were being thrown by a group of strikers. A woman was injured by a stray bullet as she stood on the terrace of her house.

Meanwhile, leaders of several transporation workers organizations, which called the strike, were arrested, in addition to Fernando Alvarez Bogart, first vice president of the opposition's Reformist Party (PR), who was released after being questioned by the national district attorney's office.

This morning, several transporation workers organizations, joined together in a so-called "drivers' struggle," called a 48-hour national strike. After 6 hours, the urban transportation strike is complete, especially in the higher part of the capital, as well as in Santiago, the country's second largest city, and others in the interior. The strike was to last for 48 hours, but if the government fails to respond during that period, it will be extended for another 24 hours. In addition, the strikers have threatened to call an indefinite protest if no understanding is reached.

URUGUAY

OFFICER DISCUSSES ARRESTS, RELEASES OF TUPAMAROS

PY011903 Buenos Aires IATIN in Spanish 1323 GMT 1 Aug 79 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Aug (IATIN)--There are 1,670 extremists still under detention in Uruguayan prisons and 2,860 have been released since 1972, asserted Col (Federico) Silva Ledesma, president of the supreme military court, who yesterday issued heavy sentences to 13 Tupamaros [National Liberation Movement].

The high-ranking military chief indicated to reporters that the aforementioned figures are as of 30 June and therefore believes that the figure may have been reduced with the granting of releases. "This is (?the truth), whatever else is said is not true. There are no other prisoners at the disposal of military justice... A slander campaign is being carried out against Uruguay at the international level with the participation of some organizations that reportedly have international influence," Silva Ledesma remarked. He made it clear that 2,860 persons have been released which represents 63.13 percent of the 4,530 who have been brought to trial since 14 April 1972. Only 9.74 percent of the detainees have not yet been sentenced and the supreme military court actively carries out its task, the military judge stated.

During a public trial the members of a Tupamaros column were sentenced yesterday. Their actions were carried out years ago in Durazno Department, located in the center of the country. [Words indistinct] with sentences which range from 10 to 23 years in prison, including additional security measures. The years they have already been in prison will be discounted from the sentence.

BRIEFS

WAGE INCREASE--The minister of economy and finance announced today that the government has ordered a 10-percent wage increase for workers in general and a 15-percent increase in the minimum wage as of 1 August 1979. [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Jul 79 PY]